

Message

From: Houda, Tara [Houda.Tara@epa.gov]
Sent: 4/23/2021 11:17:57 AM
To: Smith, Brian [Smith.Brian@epa.gov]; Decker, Chris [Decker.Chris@epa.gov]; Hansel, Joel [Hansel.Joel@epa.gov]; Wool, Tim [Wool.Tim@epa.gov]; Parker, William [parker.william@epa.gov]; Burks, Felicia [Burks.Felicia@epa.gov]; Able, Tony [Able.Tony@epa.gov]
Subject: FW: Piney Point Update - April 22, 2021

Sharing FDEP's Press Office Update since it has a new item on red tide & models.

From: Florida Department of Environmental Protection <FloridaDEP@public.govdelivery.com>
Sent: Thursday, April 22, 2021 5:38 PM
To: Houda, Tara <Houda.Tara@epa.gov>
Subject: Piney Point Update - April 22, 2021



FLORIDA DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION

CONTACT: DEP Press Office, 850-245-2112, DEPNews@FloridaDEP.gov

Piney Point Update - April 22, 2021

The Florida Department of Environmental Protection (DEP) continues to conduct repair activities associated with the small detachment discovered underneath the steel plate. DEP is monitoring the steel plate and low-level flow around the clock.

Key status updates and response activities:

- DEP has been methodically relocating water among the lined storage basins onsite to safely manage water, respond to rainfall events and prepare for water treatment. Water levels can be expected to fluctuate daily due to these water management activities, as well as evaporation.
- Discharges to Port Manatee ceased April 9, and have not resumed at this time. It remains DEP's priority, if possible, to ensure any future necessary discharges are pre-treated to minimize ecological impacts.
- Approximately 195 million gallons remain in the NGS-South compartment.
- DEP continues to monitor and sample surrounding waterways following previous discharges. At this time, bloom conditions have been observed in the localized area of previous discharges. To date, results have ranged from non-detect to trace (0.38 ppb) levels of cyanotoxins. DEP's [interactive water quality dashboard](#) details sampling locations and corresponding results to evaluate

any environmental impact. Results will continue to be posted as soon as they are available.

- Red tide conditions in the Gulf of Mexico were detected prior to previous discharges, but outside of the immediate discharge area. Yesterday, results were reported detecting red tide in lower Tampa Bay, southwest of the Manatee River. Based on results of water quality monitoring and utilization of [Ocean Circulation Models](#), the red tide conditions in these areas are not thought to be a direct result of the Piney Point discharges. However, elevated nutrients have the potential to exacerbate these algal blooms, and increased sampling is ongoing. DEP continues working with the Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission (FWC) and the Florida Department of Health to monitor algal blooms and water quality in the area. At this time, there are no reported fish kills. FWC is the lead agency on red tide and will continue to update conditions on their [website](#). For more information on red tide, please visit [ProtectingFloridaTogether.gov](#).

Residents can find the latest information on the status of the site and response activities at [ProtectingFloridaTogether.gov/PineyPointUpdate](#).

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